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CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING IN THE SPEECH OF DR MAHATIR MOHAMAD DELIVERED AT UNGA 74TH SESSION: A POLITICAL DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates socio-political ideology in the speech of Mahathir Muhammad at UNGA's 74th session regarding climate change. The study aims at finding out how political speakers persuade the masses using persuasive techniques proposed by van Dijk (2005). The study is qualitative, and the data was collected through a purposive sampling technique while using an interpretive paradigm. Moreover, the data was analysed through the thematic analysis model. The study's findings prescribe that the political leader highlighted issue of climate change, employing political persuasion. The findings of the study reveal that political leaders like Mathair Muhammad have utilized persuasive strategies at international political events. The said leader seemed successful in promoting his ideology following the context of modern democracy. Moreover, he subconsciously utilized discursive, rhetorical and persuasive strategies such as personal pronoun, 'I' and 'we', modal verbs, number game, fear-based representation, positive self-representation and his concerns about public well-being. All this can be explored through the situational and political context.

INTRODUCTION

The current study examines the sociopolitical ideas in the UNGA speeches by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (74th session). The present study primarily focuses on the representation and function of international politics regarding climate change. The researcher heretically analysed the techniques used in speeches to influence audiences. Political statements include a variety of persuasion tactics for achieving political objectives. The researcher has taken and modified the socio-cognitive model of van Dijk (2005) and also aims to analyse the text while incorporating the speakers' expressions of culture, religion, and society (Rehman et al., 2021).

Additionally, the study investigates how a language conveys the idea of power and holds politically motivating vocabulary relevant to the audience's cognition. The speeches by Mohamad each purposefully employ these strategies to persuade the audience in a particular manner and tone. However, he draw attention to global and domestic problems with the economy, threats to the environment, corruption, climate change, and terrorism.

Political leaders use language to sway and persuade the audience because it is a multidimensional communication method (Bag et al., 2020). Similar to how political discourse analysis provides a variety of analytical models and tools, language has hidden agendas (Bag et al., 2021). However, language allows people to amplify the deep or implicit meanings ingrained in political discourse. Additionally, politicians often use persuasive techniques in his political speeches to persuade the people to adopt his ideologies (Iqbal et al., 2020; Bag et al., 2021a). Consequently, PDA is defined as a component of society, and language is a social practice (Saeed et al., 2020).

Politics involves a significant amount of persuasion—a technical term for inducing or tempting members of any society or group (Iqbal et al., 2020b). Furthermore, political leaders appear to have been actively using these kinds of persuasion and rhetorical strategies for ages (Iqbal et al., 2020). Furthermore, orators frequently use these rhetorical devices to appeal to his target audience. The same applies to how orators utilize them to persuade the audience to support his goals. Politics and persuasion are intertwined because of this (Tayyab et al., 2021). Language is crucial in developing the ability to recognize underlying ideologies and meanings (Aazam et al., 2019). Therefore, political leaders appeal to and persuade the masses who are a part of the speaker's society through language, or political discourse. As a result, the inducing techniques that use language as a tool are referred to as persuasive devices. Highly regarded politicians like Joko Widodo, Dr. Roahyani, Barack Obama, Imran Khan, and others frequently use these tools to spread the word around the globe.

OBJECTIVES

Following are the objectives of the study:

1. To investigate how Mahathir Muhammad uses discursive strategies to represent Us and Them

2. To identify how language is used to disseminate ideologies by Mahathir Muhammad

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section deals with the research gap by critically examining previous research and how it relates to the current research. The most important concepts gleaned from the current investigation are discussed in this section. In addition, this chapter discusses all of the ideas associated with discourse and critical discourse analysis in connection to power and ideology. This chapter is broken up into two parts. The first part of this chapter is dedicated to providing an introduction of discourse, followed by critical discourse analysis, political discourse, language, power, and ideology. The second section discusses the work that is related to the present research that has already been done to determine the research gap for the present research. The entire chapter is summarized in the very last section.

Socio-Political Discourse Analysis

In this section of the report, the researcher focuses on the various criticisms investigated regarding SPDA from various angles (Socio-Political Discourse Analysis). For example, Van Dijk (1997) and Hayat et al. (2021) try to answer the question, "What is Political Discourse Analysis?" by analyzing political discourse. In addition, when attempting to characterize what the SPDA ought to be, one tries to be programmatic in a manner that is more analytical (Akhtar et al., 2020). Further, it tries to complete the questionnaire of what would be an appropriate method of carrying it out.

In addition to this, the concept of political conversation analysis is not entirely clear (Van Dijk, 2013). The most fundamental approach to understanding political discourse is one that emphasizes research into political debate (Afzal, 2018). Because of this, we had to first identify which types of discourse could be considered political discussion and which types of discourse could not be considered political discourse. On the other hand, there is a need for more critical study is related to the label in a partisan way to discourse analysis. By doing so, it will be possible to grasp modern CDA (Critical Discourse Analysis). According to Fairclough (1992a; 2015), if the CDA and PDA do not work together, it is the same as maintaining both ways of the ambiguous designation. Analyzing political discourse involves analyzing political discourse and providing a critical assessment of it (Zafran et al., 2021; Azeem et al., 2021). The analysis of political discourse is important for the development of the new interdisciplinary field of discourse analysis (Baig et al., 2020; Hayat et al., 2021).

In this sense, politicians are members of the group of individuals who are financially responsible for his endeavors (van Dijk, 1998; Javaid et al., 2021). Nevertheless, those who are nominated or voted to serve as the primary actors in the political system. The manner in which public dialogue (henceforth PD) was defined is somewhat unlike to the manner in which the definitions of legal, academic, and professional discourse are formulated. Discussion with the relevant players in the legal system, the educational system, and the medical

system. It seems like it would be the simple part (assuming we can understand what the meaning of politics is) (Afzal et al., 2021).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The field of study known as "political discourse analysis" is a subfield of "discourse analysis" that focuses on the ways in which language is used in specific political settings, arenas, and arenas of activity, such as political trials, debates, legislative procedures, and discussions (Masroor et al., 2021). Analysis of political discourse is another term that can be used to describe it. An area of discourse analysis that focuses on highlighting political ideologies as part of the discursive discourse in order to unearth and expose the hidden ideologies in which politicians' huge goals are hidden. According to Van Dijk (2006), the term "political discourse" can be expanded to include all actors who try to make political agendas discursive through the use of words, photographs, and gestures. He believes that the term "political discourse" should not be limited to politicians or political debate. Political discourse is not limited to political language; rather, it comprises all activities of the media, political workers, political officials, pressure organizations, and social institutions that play a part in power. Political language is just one component of political discourse.

According to Van Dijk (1998), debate is typically presented in the form of written or spoken narratives, whereas political discourse is primarily delivered by politicians in the form of speeches delivered in parliament. Although there are many other forums for the construction of political ideology, such as social institutes, forums, media discussions, talk shows, debates, conferences, campaigns, and legislative processes, many politicians and political parties have attempted to propagate and present his ideology through various publications, including magazines, articles, books, and newspapers. Nevertheless, the social media platform has emerged as the most effective tool in recent years.

Fairclough's Three-dimension Model (1995)

One of the earliest approaches to CDA was created by discourse analyst Norman Fairclough. Drawing from critical linguistics, he utilised his three-stage critical discourse analysis model (1995) to examine how language is used to establish, uphold, and challenge power structures and ideologies. In his analysis, Fairclough (1989) used a three-dimensional framework. Text analysis, or "critical linguistics," is a first stage component (Description). The second stage (Interpretation) concerns how text and interaction relate. The last stage, "Explanation," looks at how social background and interaction interact.

Wodak's Discourse Historical Approach (1996, 2001)

Discourse Historical Approach to CDA, was developed by Wodak (1996, 2001) and Reisigl, which involves using triangulation and emphasizes combining textual analysis with the analysis of historical and political context. This analytical framework uses argumentation theory, systemic functional linguistics and ethnography.

Van dijk's Political Discourse Analysis Model (2006)

The following information will serve as the research's analytical framework. Van dijk's (2006) analytical framework is a thorough and accurate conceptual framework for giving linguistic analysis tools to researchers. Unlike other frameworks proposed in the field of linguistics analysis and CDA, Van dijk's (2006) design is a combination of argumentation, political strategies, rhetorical devices, semantic strategies, and linguistics information, making it an accurate tool for detecting reality distortions in the discourse production process. The research is primarily qualitative in nature. This theoretical approach provides a solid foundation and framework for analysing key variables in Mahathir Muhammad's speeches.

Van dijk (2006) elaborates several language techniques in his analytical framework, among which the essential dichotomy of "Positive Self Representation" and "Negative Other Representation" stands out. In-group favouritism, also known as positive self-representation, is a semantic macro-strategy utilised for 'face keeping' or 'impression management' (Van dijk, 2006). Another semantic macro-strategy for in-groups and out-groups is negative other-representation, which divides them into 'good' and 'bad,' superior and inferior, Us and Them.

DATA ANALYSIS

In the previous section, the researcher tried to cover the details of various aspects of the methodology that is applied in the present research. In this research, the researcher deals with the political speech analysis which are delivered by the Malaysian PM Dr. Mahatir Muhammad. The researcher has a qualitative analysis by using the model of Van Dijk. The analyzed speeches were delivered in different countries of Asia. As stated in the previous section, the selected speeches were addressed in a general debate of UNGA 74th session of during September 2019.

For the present research, the researcher has listened and watched the videos of addressing the president and prime ministers several times to examine the complete structure of each sentence. This analysis covers various aspects of emerging themes frequent used in the speeches. But, the researcher has selected three major themes that are most frequently used in the data namely; islamophobia, climate change and global warming and humanitarian crises and global injustice. In this research, the thematic analysis of ideological foundation or background is examined through the linguistics tools. Therefore, the analysis is conducted at the sentence level and these sentences are encoded according to the relevance of theme. In the figure 4.0, the study depicts the speakers' crucial details and targeted speeches (Mahatir Muhammad).

Use of Pronoun

Sr. No.	Use of I	Use of We
1	I have	We have
2	I think	We should
3		We should
4		We had
5		We should
6		We should
7		We should
8		We should
9		We are
10		We cannot
11		We the human
12		We can
13		We set
14		We reduce
15		We will have

4.2.2.2. Use of Modal Verbs

Sr. No	Use of may	Use of can	Use of should	Use of would	Use of could
1	may not happen	Can it be	We should	There would	Could it be
2		We cannot	We should	Fire would	
3		We can	We should		
4			We should		
5			We should		

4.2.2.3. Use of Theme

Sr.No	Number Game	Fear based representation	Self-Representation	Highlight the Climate Change issue	PM’s concern about public well being
1	“Elsewhere powerful typhoons and hurricanes are destroying whole towns, killing thousands, wreaking havoc of	“Elsewhere powerful typhoons and hurricanes are destroying whole towns, killing thousands, wreaking havoc of unprecedented proportions.”	“I have a feeling that these disasters are a part of the cycles of change that our planet has been going through for millions of years.”	“The world is experiencing climate change. Malaysia is hotter than ever before. It does not seem to return to previous temperatures. In fact, it seems	“Elsewhere powerful typhoons and hurricanes are destroying whole towns, killing thousands, wreaking havoc of

	unprecedented proportions.”			to be getting hotter”	unprecedented proportions”
2	“Hundreds would die”	“Flood waters from storms inundate huge areas of land. Sometimes there would be a dry spell and wild fires would destroy forest and towns. Hundreds would die.”	“ I think, instead of preparing for war, we should be paying attention to the climate changes and accompanying natural disasters.”	“Elsewhere powerful typhoons and hurricanes are destroying whole towns, killing thousands, wreaking havoc of unprecedented proportions”	“Flood waters from storms inundate huge areas of land. Sometimes there would be a dry spell and wild fires would destroy forest and towns. Hundreds would die”
3	“I have a feeling that these disasters are a part of the cycles of change that our planet has been going through for millions of years”	“Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are more frequent and he destroy towns and cities. Melting snow in the Arctic and Antarctic is raising the levels of the seas and threaten to overrun islands.”		“Flood waters from storms inundate huge areas of land. Sometimes there would be a dry spell and wild fires would destroy forest and towns. Hundreds would die”	“Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are more frequent and he destroy towns and cities. Melting snow in the Arctic and Antarctic is raising the levels of the seas and threaten to overrun islands.”
4	“Could it be that the cycle is changing, as it did in prehistoric millions of years?”	“We should have teams of well-equipped disaster experts ready to rush to disaster areas. Every disaster is a world disaster.”		“Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are more frequent and he destroy towns and cities. Melting snow in the Arctic and Antarctic is raising the levels of the seas and threaten to overrun islands.”	“ Can it be that the stable salubrious climate that we have been enjoying has come to the end of its cycle?”

5	“we had been used to over the last thousands of years”.	“We should have teams of well equipped disaster experts ready to rush to disaster areas. Every disaster is a world disaster.”		“I have a feeling that these disasters are a part of the cycles of change that our planet has been going through for millions of years.”	“I think, instead of preparing for war, we should be paying attention to the climate changes and accompanying natural disasters.”
6				“Can it be that the stable salubrious climate that we have been enjoying has come to the end of its cycle?”	“We should be preparing to combat climate change, to bring back the normal environment we had been used to over the last thousands of years.”
7				“Could it be that the cycle is changing, as it did in prehistoric millions of years?”	“We are wasting our money preparing for wars, inventing ever more destructive weapons, when all of us may be wiped out by natural disasters as the planet goes through its next cycle”
8				“Is it possible that the temperatures rise to a level that living conditions would become unbearable”?	“We are wasting our money preparing for wars, inventing ever more destructive weapons, when all of us may be wiped out by natural disasters as the planet goes through its next cycle”
9				“I think, instead of preparing for war, we should	

				be paying attention to the climate changes and accompanying natural disasters.”	
10				“We should be preparing to combat climate change, to bring back the normal environment we had been used to over the last thousands of years.”	
11				“We are wasting our money preparing for wars, inventing ever more destructive weapons, when all of us may be wiped out by natural disasters as the planet goes through its next cycle”	
12				“We can still survive the next cycle if we set our researchers to come up with defences against catastrophes.”	
13				“If we reduce our budget for killing people, we will have the funds for research and preparation”	

DISCUSSION

The use of "I" in Mahathir's speech emphasizes his personal involvement and commitment to the issue of climate change, adding credibility to his statements and highlighting the urgency of the issue.

The use of "we" in Mahathir's speech emphasizes the need for collaboration and collective action in addressing climate change, highlighting the importance of working together as a global community to mitigate its effects.

The use of modal verbs in Mahathir's speech highlights the urgency and importance of acting to address climate change. It conveys a sense of moral obligation, responsibility, and the need for immediate action to prevent catastrophic consequences.

Mahathir's use of numbers in this speech is effective in conveying the severity and urgency of climate change and natural disasters, as well as highlighting the need for action and preparation to mitigate his effects.

Mahathir's speech is a call to action, but it is also a warning of the potential consequences if we do not act. He suggests that we are wasting our money preparing for wars and inventing destructive weapons when we should be paying attention to climate change and natural disasters that could wipe out all of us. By emphasizing the potential dangers and risks associated with climate change, Mahathir hopes to motivate people to act to mitigate the effects of climate change and prepare for the future.

Mahathir's speech highlights the close link between climate change and public well-being, emphasizing the urgent need for action to mitigate its impacts. His concerns about the unequal distribution of the impacts of climate change also highlight the need for a collaborative and equitable global response to the issue. While Mahathir's speech on climate change was a powerful call to action, it is important to recognize that political discourse on this issue varies among different leaders and parties. Understanding the context and agenda of each leader is essential for developing effective global policies to address climate change.

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CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

The study, according to its objectives, found that Mahathir Muhammad, efficaciously communicated his messages to the whole world through his practical orientation. Undoubtedly, language plays a valuable and vital role in communication, whether it is in verbal or non-verbal form. Likewise, Mahathir Muhammad used proper and measured language in his speech. As far as his style of speech at UNGA is concerned, he proved himself as a great and expert speaker, he became the representative of the whole Muslim world while in addressing the social and political issues concerning environment. The dual-diplomacy of the international community had been highlighted while

measuring and judging these complicated phenomena. Moreover, he subconsciously utilized discursive, rhetorical and persuasive strategies such as personal pronoun, 'I' and 'we', modal verbs, number game, fear-based representation, positive self-representation and his concerns about public well-being. All this can be explored through the situational and political context. Politics is often considered the manipulation of words, phrases, idiomatic impressions, and sentences. Hence, the political leaders get full advantages while persuading the public or audience to convince them according to their own political and social benefits (sociopolitical ideologies) by utilizing rhetorical and persuasive language. Thus, like other political leaders, the said leader also knew how and when the persuasive strategies would be helpful. Henceforth, he also owned a deep perceptual power to utilize persuasive language and approach. Keeping his previous history of communication in view, he seemed efficient to attract the world using confident verbal language. Therefore, it had an influential impact on the local as well as international audience. When he stated the facts related to climate change, he was timely universal, and relevant. Furthermore, in his speech at UNGA, he made the audience realize his vital presence regarding global issue the world is facing.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCHERS

Mathair's speech on climate change in the UN represents his personal perspective and political agenda on this issue. Future research can be conductive on the speech of various political leaders across the globe regarding his different priorities strategies and interests all this ,ay influence on climate change.

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Appendix

1	PDA	Political Discourse Analysis
2	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
3	UNA	United Nations Assembly
4	SPDA	Socio-Political Discourse Analysis
5	CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
6	NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
7	SCA	Socio-cognitive Approach
8	CDS	Critical Discourse Studies
9	JIP	Jamaat-e Islami Pakistan
10	PML (N)	the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)
11	PTI	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf
12	COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 2019
13	DT	Donald Trump
14	3D	Three Dimension
15		
16	UMNO	United Malays National Organization
17	BN	Barisan National
18	GAUN’s	General Assembly of United Nations
19	UN	United Nations
20	ODA	Official development assistance
21	SDR	Special Drawing Rights